

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS TO EPA FOR KIRK MACONAUGHEY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, JA
SUBJECT: US/JAPAN JOINT PLANNING AND COORDINATION
COMMITTEE--ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 168977

1. OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT JAPANESE POSTURE ON PROJECTS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. SIDE AT THE SECOND JOINT MEETING REMAINS GENERALLY PASSIVE AND LUKEWARM AND THAT THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO ACT UPON ANY OF THE FIVE PROPOSALS IN GREAT HURRY. THE JAPANESE SIDE CONSIDERS FEW OF THE PROPOSALS PARTICULARLY FIT FOR JOINT PROJECT ACTIVITY UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

2. SPECIFICALLY, FOLLOWING ARE JAPANESE RESPONSES TO EACH OF THE PROPOSALS:

(A) WATER CONSERVATION AND FLOW REDUCTION IN JAPAN AND THE U.S.: JAPANESE ASSUME THAT THE U.S. PROPOSED THIS
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PROJECT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF WATER CONSERVATION. THEY WANT TO LIMIT PROJECT ACTIVITY IN THE WATER AREA TO PROBLEMS RELATING TO WATER QUALITY. THE WATER RESOURCES BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL LAND AGENCY HAS BEEN STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL PROJECT ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA, BUT HAS NOT COME UP WITH ANY SUGGESTION. ALTHOUGH GOJ OFFICIALS DID NOT MENTION IT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE

PROJECT IS BETTER FIT FOR THE UJNR WATER RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY PANEL TO ADDRESS INASMUCH AS THE PANEL HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO BROADEN ITS RESEARCH ACTIVITY TO COVER WATER CONSERVATION. THE MAIN THRUST OF THE PANEL HAS IN THE PAST BEEN DESALTING OF SEAWATER AND UTILIZATION OF BYPRODUCTS. EPA MAY WISH TO CONSULT MANUEL MORRIS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OWRT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

(B) NON-POINT SOURCE CONTROLS IN WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT: AT ONE TIME THE JAPANESE SIDE DECIDED TO TURN DOWN THE PROPOSAL FOR THIS PROJECT BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTEREST ON PART OF EA AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, BUT HAS CHANGED ITS MIND AND STUDY IS BEING MADE IN THE DIRECTION OF AGREEING TO THE PROPOSAL.

(C) MEASUREMENT OF BYPRODUCT COKE OVEN EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGIES: JAPANESE CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL DIFFICULT TO ACT UPON ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL BECAUSE THE INTERESTS OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY HAVE TO BE RESPECTED. EMBASSY COMMENT: IMPENDING VISIT OF U.S. TECHNOLOGISTS ON THIS SUBJECT MAY SATISFY EPA NEEDS OR LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NEED FOR FORMAL PROJECT.

(D) ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND INCENTIVES FOR POLLUTION CONTROL: JAPANESE ARE MUCH INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING JOINT PROJECT ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. JAPANESE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN COMPARISON OF COSTS OF POLLUTION UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROL IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND ANALYSES OF THE IMPACT OF POLLUTION CONTROL ON MACRO-ECONOMICS. JAPANESE ARE RELUCTANT TO INCLUDE STUDY OF COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF POLLUTION IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES, CONSIDERING SOCIO-POLITICAL NATURE OF THE COMPENSATION PROBLEM.

(E) RADIOACTIVE WASTE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY: JAPANESE ARE WILLING TO PURSUE THIS THEME IF LEAD AGENCY CAN BE DESIGNATED IN THE U.S. IN JAPAN, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (STA) IS EXCLUSIVELY IN CHARGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE CONTROLS. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPERATIVE TO BRING IN DOE AND NRC IF ANY MEANINGFUL COOPERATION IS TO BE ESTABLISHED ON THIS PROPOSED PROJECT.

3. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST FURTHER THAT DISCUSSION ON U.S. PROPOSALS BE PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. THE JAPANESE SIDE IS EXPECTED TO CLARIFY ITS ATTITUDE ON EACH OF THE FIVE PROPOSALS AT THE MEETING. MANSFIELD

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